Shipping project at Kochi

246. SHRI N.K. PREMA CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project report seeking sanction to establish an International Bunkering Terminal, Cruise Terminal and Ship Repairing Yard at Kochi in Kerala is pending with Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accord sanction for the above project;

(c) whether the Government have permitted to create Special Economic Zones in connection with the Vallarpadam Project in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No proposal for sanction of the said projects is pending with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Formal approval has been given on 13.9.2004 to Cochin Port Trust for setting up of a port based Special Economic Zone at Vallarpadam and Puthuvypeen area of Cochin, Kerala. The zone is proposed to be set up over an area of about 400 acres at an estimated cost of about Rs. 802 crores.

Upgradation of highways

247. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of important Highway Sections in various parts of the country have been identified for upgradation into four-lane and six-lane highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof with funds allocated and the targeted date for completion of each section, State-wise;

(c) whether it is proposed to upgrade the B.C.Road-Surathkal Section of the National Highway into a four lane highway;